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Newsletter

Number 11

7 May 2010



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. To Jenny Crawford, Lisa Jones, Jennie Clarke and Sharon Martin for assisting with the Headlice check today.

.. Those who have taken the time to cast a vote in our BoT election - voting closed today - and, again, to those brave enough to put their names forward.

.. To those parents who assisted with this week's headlice inspection.

.. To our netball coaches, managers and supporters for a great start to the season

People of the week

.. Tegan for receiving "Player of the Day" for her Kamo Soccer team last weekend.

.. Eve who was also awarded Player of the Day recently.

.. our netball girls!

Orderliness Virtue

Remember to keep us informed of great examples of orderliness so we can include these in the newsletter.

BoT Election Results

Candidates will be advised by mid-day on Friday 14 May. Results will be in the newsletter that day and in the Northern Advocate on Saturday 15 May.

Working Bee

A working bee will be held **9:00 to 12:00 on Sunday 16 May** to tidy up a few areas around the school. If you can possibly spend **an hour or three** helping out please pencil in this date. Tasks involve clearing of gutters, cleaning the sandpit, trimming of bushes, some planting, repairs to our retaining wall, a wee bit of touch up painting, and other smallish tasks. If we have a goodly number of helpers it will be amazing what can be achieved. If you have been wanting to lend a hand in some way, and have not managed to commit yet, this could be your opportunity. Please bring with you any tools you have which might assist in the completion of these tasks. Thanks in anticipation.

think... SOLD!

think yellow,
think...

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Apologies ..

.. to those parents who accompanied our year 5 and 6 students to the Rippa Rugby Tournament. We are sorry this tournament did not proceed and we are seeking an explanation for why we were not informed.

Room 9 trip to Town Basin 14 May

Parents of room 9 children are asked to ensure that consents for next Friday's trip have been returned to school by Monday 10th. Thanks to those who have offered to assist with supervision. Any questions in the build-up to Mrs Witte please.

Term Contributions / Activity Fees

Those parents who opted for term payment of the above fees will have received a request for payment last week. If you have not received this, please check your child's bag or give the office a call. If you would like to pay by direct credit please contact Helen. **Please contact Kevin if you want to confidentially discuss alternative payment arrangements.**

Your financial support of the school is much appreciated and helps to plug the significant funding shortfall we face as a high decile school. We promise to put this money to good use and for the benefit of as many children as possible.

Something possibly of interest

Mrs Bruce has asked me to advise that a new children's drama series will be starting at 7:00 PM this Sunday on Maori Television which may be of interest to young viewers. This is a New Zealand drama written by Margaret Mahy. I **think** it is called "Tangata Twitters" (I have lost my jottings). Might be quite educational and has the benefit of being home grown. Let us know what you think.

Survey of future enrolments

Last term families received a form requesting information on future enrolments. A reminder to get this into the school office if you have not already done so. More forms are available from the office.

PAT Maths Analysis Sheets (children years 4 to 8)

If you have not yet received your child's maths PAT analysis sheet please check their school bag or, failing this, give their teacher a call on Monday. We are keen for parents to discuss these with children and to be involved as we plan to meet identified needs. We will ask for return of these forms in a week or two. Feel free to contact your child's teacher at any time with questions. Results can be discussed in greater depth at mid-year interviews.

International Schools Competitions

A reminder that test dates are as follows - English Exam - 3 August, Maths Exam - 17 August. Test practice papers will be issued towards the end of this term. Experience suggests that a period of around 4 weeks preparation is ideal for most children - starting too soon can result in fatigue and lack of interest - starting too late speaks for itself. A reminder also that those children sitting the science exam (9 June) are responsible for their own preparation although we will supervise the test and send these in for you.

Request from Room 8

Before you know it Calf Club will soon be upon us. Room 8 needs your help so if you have any of the items listed below could you please please please leave them at the office or take them to Room 8. Thank you.

Wool,

Stockings / Pantihose

Clean, empty jars with lids (normal jam jar size)

Request from Senior School

This term the senior school are making papier mache clocks. If you have spare corrugated card, newspaper or large pieces of card (sides of boxes etc) we would love to have them. Please drop off to Room 10.

Term Overviews

Please find the junior, middle & senior syndicate term 2 overviews attached. These indicate major units of work being covered in classes this term. Please contact your child's teacher if you want to be involved.

20 Hour famine

Year 6 to 8 children interested in participating in this year's famine received sponsor booklets this week. Please encourage them as they pursue sponsors. Participation is at the discretion of parents and so please don't feel under any pressure. Please note that sponsor booklets must be returned to school at the end of the famine even if no sponsorship money was collected.

Mobile Ear Clinic

Next outside Bush Rd Medical centre Tuesday 11 May - 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Appointments not necessary.

Have You Seen?

A pink velour JK zip hoody, size 5 or 6. If it has been picked up in error, would you please return to Room 4. Thank you.

School Banking

Don't forget to bank your savings regularly in the Kashin box in the School Office. New application packs are available from the office if you would like to start your children with a regular banking scheme.

Community Notices

For Sale - Quality, Dry Firewood. Ph Neroli 433 8185

For Sale - Soccer Boots, size 11 Black and Red. Good condition. Ph Lisa Verevis on 4335155.

Situation Vacant- Farm hand wanted. 680 spring calving cows. 50 bale rotary. ACRs. Rostered time off. 3 other full time staff members. Milking, general farm duties and assist with calf rearing. 9kms from school (Otakairangi Rd). Start early July end mid January. Possible relief milking following end date. Ph Greig or Paula Powell 433 5141.

The Funky Monkey's Camping Adventure Show - Queens Birthday, Forum North, Monday 7 June, 11am-12 noon. Tickets available at Forum North Ticketek www.ticketek.co.nz, 0800 ticketek. For more info visit www.thefunkymonkeys.co.nz

Lighthouse - The Bad Taste Party. Dress up in your bad taste outfit and be in to win. Dancing, crazy games, prizes, food. \$2 per person. Friday 7 May, 6pm - 8pm, Trinity Uniting Church. Contact Jennie Clarke 435 3890 or Liz Gardiner 021 325 671.

Final thoughts

A couple of weeks back we advised that Mrs Comrie had received a Kiwibank Local Heroes Award for her contributions, among other things, to the SPELD organisation. Some of our parents may not be aware that Mrs Comrie is something of a regional expert in the area of learning disabilities. We are extremely lucky to have someone of Mrs Comrie's calibre on our staff. She is a constant point of reference for us (as well as for others from all around NZ). A national treasure as far as we are concerned.

And a final thank you to the outgoing Board for three years of diligent and conscientious service. Recent years have seen a steady erosion of Board discretion. In spite of this, there is still much a Board can do to add value to a school. This Board has been motivated by an unflinching desire to make decisions they conscientiously believed to be in the interests of the wider body of students. Sometimes these decisions are difficult, and are made in the knowledge they may be scrutinised (and sometimes criticised) by others with only a partial knowledge of the facts. Board members must rise above personal agendas and grab every opportunity, no matter how slight, to advance the interests of the school. This Board has done all of these things. On behalf of staff, students and parents we thank you for your service - we are richer for your involvement.

And I will leave the last word to Brad Martin who recently wrote this awesome poem. Well done Brad.

Love

Is bright pink
It tastes like strawberries
And smells like sweet rose petals
Love looks like a bright garden
The sound of monarch butterflies fluttering
Love is soft soft and warm

By Brad Martin (Room 9)

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

**Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them**

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Physiotherapy Services***

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A Request for Help from a Senior Student...

Dear Parents/Campers,

Hi, my name is William Dorahy and it is Science Fair time in the Matarau Senior School. I want to make a solar powered light to put on each guy rope on the tent so campers don't trip over them at night.

I'm starting my market research. If you are a camper or have an answer for my questions, could you please help me?

Have you heard of solar powered lights for tent guy ropes?

Please Circle: Yes / No If yes, where have you seen them? _____

Do you think this is a good idea & would you use them?

Please Circle: Yes / No Why? _____

How much would you pay to buy these solar lights? _____

Have you seen any other types of products that light up guy ropes? Please tick which of these you have seen or used and which you think would be better to use?

Reflective Tape	Seen	Used	Would Prefer
Luminous Ropes	Seen	Used	Would Prefer
Solar Light	Seen	Used	Would Prefer

Have you seen little solar lights (smaller than garden lights) or solar panels anywhere that we could adapt?

Please Circle: Yes / No If yes where? _____

Thank you very much for your help, please return your answers to the school office.